

about the best Agency to look for this, but without Mr. Bedoya on the FTC, the chair and the members would be handicapped in moving that forward. This is a really important motion to discharge.

I hope anyone who cares about inflation and rising prices and collusion and all kinds of manipulation to prevent those prices from coming back down should be voting for this motion to discharge and the nomination.

Once again, the Senator from Washington has led the way on this issue, and I salute her. This is a very, very important motion to discharge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I thank the majority leader for that concise documentation of what really the FTC is about. It is about getting somebody on there who is going to fight to protect consumers on issues.

We know that we need the FTC now more than ever. We needed their muscle during the COVID pandemic, as opportunistic scammers stole \$5.9 billion out of the pockets of Americans, and that is just the reported amount. That doesn't include people who never knew that they were scammed or were too embarrassed to report what happened.

So Congress, on a bipartisan basis, pumped up the FTC's power, and at the end of 2020, we passed the COVID-19 Consumer Protection Act to help root out promoters of dangerous, fake treatments and cures.

Second, we gave the FTC \$30 million in the American Rescue Plan to promote and protect Americans against scams that targeted their COVID stimulus payments.

Last year, we confirmed the FTC Chair, Lina Khan, with support from 21 Republicans in this body, and today we are talking about the next important step in protecting consumers, and that is moving to confirm Mr. Bedoya to fill the last seat on the Federal Trade Commission.

Mr. Bedoya has the right experience we need to tackle the problems that we are facing right now—some of the most complicated and pressing issues regarding how to protect our privacy and protect children's online privacy. I say that because I heard comments from my colleague about Mr. Bedoya and the fact that he issued various tweets about this or that in his time in the private sector.

I guarantee you that if we voted for people based on what their tweets are, there would be a lot of people who wouldn't be approved at all, including some of the people who have been through this process.

Mr. Bedoya served as the chief counsel of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and Law. So I would say that as it relates to the FTC's ability to do some-

thing about reining in some of the bad practices that we see online, I think he is a very qualified person and individual.

Mr. Bedoya graduated summa cum laude from Harvard and holds a law degree from Yale, where he served on the Yale Law Journal and received the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans.

So I think that Mr. Bedoya is a person who has dug in on a variety of issues and has the experience and leadership in one of the most critical areas—technology—that the FTC is dealing with today.

So I encourage my colleagues to support him. That is why he is supported by the current Republican FTC Commissioners. They also support his nomination. They say they recognize his willingness and expertise and ability to reach across the aisle and find common ground on solutions that work for people.

It is that skill set that we are looking for at the FTC to help hard-working Americans get a fair shake in the marketplace, whether that is at the pharmacy, the gas pump, or online.

And I know that as a proud immigrant, Mr. Bedoya will also use his role to expand the FTC's work in underserved communities.

The FTC needs to be able to protect all Americans, and to accomplish that, we need to have a Commission that is not deadlocked now but has somebody like Mr. Bedoya, who can help us move ahead on these issues.

He has experience working, as I said, in the Judiciary Committee. In 2009, he cofounded the Esperanza Education Fund, an immigration status-blind college scholarship for immigrant students, and has been working on various issues within the community.

Right now, we need an FTC that is going to look at market systems and make sure there is fair competition to make sure that consumers are protected and that there is a level playing field.

I think his experience here on the Hill lets him understand exactly what that is. He has testified before Congress and State legislatures and appeared in numbers of publications about these critical issues on privacy and on the online world in which we need to have more oversight.

So, finally, Mr. Bedoya's experience on, as I said, data privacy specifically, the internet and making it a safe place for children—he exposed racial bias in facial recognition software, helped to protect innocent people from prosecution and companies that have already collected data on millions of Americans. We need that kind of expertise that Mr. Bedoya knows and understands how we are using that today and what we can do to better protect the American consumer.

I hope that my colleagues will join us to approve and move quickly to discharge the committee of Alvaro Bedoya's nomination to be a Commissioner of the FTC and support his nomination as we get this to the Senate floor.

I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 AM TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, and pursuant to S. Res. 565, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 30, 2022, and does so as a further mark of respect for the late DON YOUNG, former Representative from Alaska.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:59 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT  
BOARD

TRAVIS LEBLANC, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 29, 2023. (REAPPOINTMENT)

#### DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination pursuant to S. Res. 27 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

LISA DENELL COOK, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2010.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 29, 2022:

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LISA A. CARTY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

##### INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

LAURA S. H. HOLGATE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

##### EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NANI A. COLORETTI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

##### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CHRISTOPHER JOHN WILLIAMSON, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MALLORY A. STEWART, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE).

C.S. ELIOT KANG, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND NON-PROLIFERATION).